

THE LIBERATOR

HOOKING
4 YEAR
GRADUATION
RATES

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN | OCTOBER 24, 2011 | ISSUE 2

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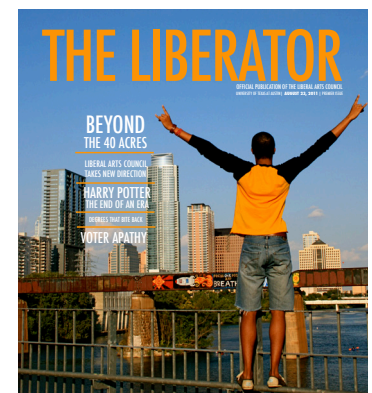
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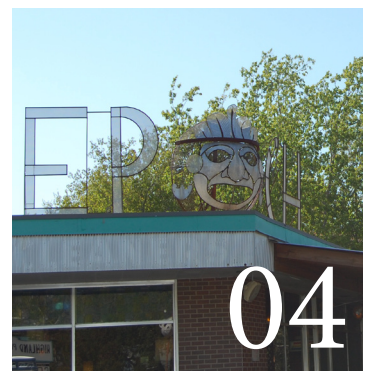
This was a really good issue for inaugural publication. The articles on how budget cuts affect foreign language course sequences and Professor Garza were really informative. The article that discussed the value of a Liberal Arts degree emphasized a point that should be carried over into other issues. Plenty of people out there have interesting stories about how they turned their Liberal Arts degree into a job, and I for one would love to see some of them in print. "The Slacker" had a really good article, and I would love to see more from him in the future. He seems to be enough like the average UT student (because that kind of stuff always happens in the dorms) that his experiences probably have a little



lesson for everyone. Another positive for this issue was its readability and not-excessive length. Unlike the Daily Texan, I could peruse the whole issue for a quick update on COLA news. Finally, the mix of student life with academic issues worked well and provided readers an interesting array of topics. ■TJ HARRIS



10, 14, 21 Photos by Marisa Montemayor
07 Photo by Lorri Marlow



On the Cover

Ady Wetegrove photographed by Marisa Montemayor

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Love it? Hate it? Let us know! Letters to the editor reviewing articles from this issue will be printed in the next edition of *THE LIBERATOR*.

THE LIBERATOR is the official publication of The Liberal Arts Council. As a liberal arts-focused news magazine, we aim to keep students connected to the university through updates on legislation, campus affairs and student life. All questions, comments and concerns can be directed to THE LIBERATOR at:

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THE LIBERATOR

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Nestled on the corner of 21st and Guadalupe lies a hidden treasure for University of Texas at Austin students. Rushing to the six-pack from the Drag or simply taking a leisurely campus stroll, one could pass this building without giving a second thought to its windowed-covered exterior. Should you succumb to the glass walls etched with famous paintings from around the world? The answer is yes. The Harry Ransom Center is a museum begging for your attention.

The Harry Ransom Center opened in 1957 when current Vice President and Provost Harry Hunt Ransom established what was then referred to as "The Humanities Research Center". Home to one of five still-intact Gutenberg Bibles in the United States, Frenchman Joseph Nicéphore Niepce's "First Photograph", a Frida Kahlo original and more, the HRC exists as one of the premier research facilities in the world.

NOW SHOWING

Beyond its academic function, the HRC also acts as a local museum to students and austinites alike. The current exhibition, "Banned, Burned, Seized, and Censored", delves into the notable controversy over mechanisms of censorship that have been at work in America for over 20 years. The battle over obscenity in literature has been afflicting America for centuries and still sparks debate today. Covering such authors as John Steinbeck, Henry Miller, and D.H. Lawrence, this endeavor by the HRC shows the true struggle between author and society, and questions where we as readers fall into the mix. Should we be allowed to read "subversive" texts if we choose, or should the decision be made for us? "Banned, Burned, Seized, and Censored" remains available for viewing any time during HRC hours, and you can also participate in guided tours through the exhibit. Specific hours can be found on the HRC's website, www.hrc.utexas.edu.

EXPLORING THE ARCHIVES

In keeping with the traditions of museums, the HRC has been working since its birth to acquire a diverse collections of art, manuscripts, and books to house for public usage. Among many donors and supporter contributions, the HRC's collection began with a formidable amount of material that has only continued to appreciate in value.

One of the many hidden jewels used for exploring this archival material is the Reading Room, a small workspace tucked inside the building waiting for you to explore. The Reading Room provides shelter

for an unbelievably extensive collection of art, books, periodicals, films, manuscripts and photography. With no limits as to what you can find here, the second floor Reading Room proves to be not only a draw to students on campus participating in different research, but also to scholars from all over the globe. Academics flock to Austin to study in the company of over 36 million literary manuscripts, one million rare books, five million photographs and 100,000 plus pieces of artwork. Though access isn't as simple as just entering the Reading Room, the process could not be any easier. Ten short minutes will grant you unlimited viewing of this tremendous collection. An eight-minute orientation video available for viewing at the center, followed by an online form to fill out and a quick showing of a valid photo ID, and you're in. Unlimited access never came so easy, right?

IMAGINE, INSPIRE

Though the HRC houses scholarly research, many other benefits can be found by just taking a look. Need access to one of the first editions of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll for some light reading? Check the HRC. Writer's block? How about popping a squat at the very desk Edgar Allen Poe churned out some creepy stories in (though I doubt they'd really let you sit there) for some inspiration? Need a Halloween costume idea? The HRC's got your back, housing some selected costumes from *Gone With the Wind* so you can channel your inner Scarlett O'Hara, of course.

The advantages of the HRC remains seemingly unknown to students. While classes may visit for projects or exhibitions, students are not doing their part and utilizing the HRC like they should, further letting these rare comic books, tarot cards of Aleister Crowley, and original Sunset Boulevard sunglasses lay undiscovered.

So the next time you have a free afternoon, a cancelled class, or a hankering to get your hands on some historic manuscripts, head to the Harry Ransom Center and bask in a world of untapped knowledge.

■ MALLORY FOUTCH



BANNED, BURNED, SEIZED & CENSORED

The HRC's latest exhibit tackles censorship in our self-declared 'free' society. With books banned every day, here are my lucky seven sure to stir up controversy both in and outside of the classroom. ■ CHEYENNE SMITH

LOLITA

VLADMIR NOBAKOV

Humbert Humbert loves Dolores Haze. The only problem? She's 12 years old. Depicting pedophilia through the eyes of a most tragic hero, *Lolita* has been banned in almost as many places as the crime the book itself depicts.

HARRY POTTER

J.K. ROWLING

Witchcraft! Wizardry! The saga of boy-wizard Harry Potter masterfully comments on issues of race, enslavement and genocide. Despite its complexities, what upset most of the novels' naysayers was simple - magic.

THE AWAKENING

KATE CHOPIN

Sex and death round out the reasons this feminist masterpiece has landed atop banned lists since its release in 1899. Suffocated by societal expectations, narrator Edna Pontellier escapes the only way she knows how - suicide.

FOREVER

JUDY BLUME

Is there anything more terrifying than teenage girls? In *Forever*, Katherine Danziger has sex! And uses protection! And understands there are emotional consequences to both of these endeavors! Shame on her.

THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN

MARK TWAIN

The 'N' word weaves its way into Twain's text 200 times before the novel's close. That's hardly the reason for the initial ban, though. On the contrary, use of slang and 'ill humor' were the root of reader opposition. Satire? Anyone?

THE LORD OF THE RINGS

J.R.R. TOLKIEN

In this fantastic tale of good v. evil, opponents of Middle Earth mistook blatant Christian undertones for representations of satanism and witchcraft. Whoops.

FARENHEIT 451

RAY BRADBURY

The irony! In Bradbury's retro-futuristic tale of censorship, government officials violate the intellectual rights of citizens by burning books. Soak that one in for a minute.

FALL INTO THE MUSIC

This season the music industry's biggest pop acts return to listeners in full force. Solo debuts and sophomore efforts hit the airwaves this fall as artists like Patrick Stump and Florence + The Machine wow fans with charged lyrics and sweeping melodies. As the last of the grammy-eligible albums hit stores, here are my top 5 fall records to keep on your radar.

■ CHEYENNE SMITH

Florence + the Machine *Ceremonials* 1

In the two years since F+TM released their critically acclaimed first album, *Lungs*, front woman Florence Welch took the music world by storm with haunting vocals and refreshing aestheticism. With the group's second studio album, *Ceremonials*, fans can expect to trade F+TM's signature ethereal sound for 12 new tracks filled with power and soul.

Standout Track
What the Water Gave Me

Kelly Clarkson *Stronger* 4

Another angry single from Kelly... Hey, why fix what isn't broken, right? Clarkson's fifth studio album takes off with the single *Mr. Know It All*, an attitudinal anthem destined for radio royalty. In her latest effort, Clarkson brings fans 13 new tracks, about half of which she penned herself. Kelly's own work failed to top the charts during the *My December* era - can the original American idol force her way back into the spotlight with *Stronger*? We sure hope so.

Standout Track
Mr. know It All

Drake *Take Care* 2

In the canadian actor-turned-rapper's second studio album, Drake takes his musicality to the next level. The album's second single, *Make Me Proud*, features Nicki Minaj - and for the first time in recorded history, the feature-frenzied lady of Young Money doesn't outshine the track's primary artist. *Take Care* is a sign of good things to come for Degraasi's most successful alumni.

Standout Track
Make Me Proud

Coldplay *Mylo Xyloto* 5

This is the first time I've been excited for a Coldplay album since, well, forever. Call me a late bloomer, but I didn't hop aboard this british fast train until *Viva la Vida*. With what I've heard from *Mylo Xyloto* (what's up with that name anyway?) so far, it's a good enough time as any to jump on the Chris Martin bandwagon. With soaring instrumentals and touching lyrics, fans can expect a double dose of cool during their first full listen of the band's fifth studio album.

Standout Track
Paradise



Patrick Stump *Soul Punk* 3

Former Fall out Boy shy guy, Patrick Stump, finally steps into the spotlight with the release of his first solo album *Soul Punk*. Fans of Stump's previous work can expect the same dynamite vocals, but shouldn't be suprised when the moody lyrics of FOB don't make their way through headphone speakers. The album's title says it all, as listeners will clearly be able to detect influences from motown, pop and punk. Stump's subject matter jumps from issues of self-appreciation, lost romance and racial segregation, making *Soul Punk* an 11 course meal with flavors of every kind sure to please your pallet. The Chicago native has a lot riding on this solo venture and with luck, will be able to forever disassociate himself from the term 'emo'.

Standout Track
Oh Nostalgia



Austin may be called the live music capital of the world, but I have found the small, independent coffee shops to be my favorite aspect of this city. Although it can be intimidating to walk into a small 'ma and pa' shop when you're not a regular, or weed out those uptight snob cafes from the truly amazing ones, these are my go-to caffeine destinations that you should keep at the top of your list.

Mozart's

Always first on my list, whether I need a break of West Campus scenery or just a good cup of bottomless coffee is Mozart's on the lake. While this is one of the better known independent coffee shops in Austin, it still has a welcoming atmosphere. Whether you want to people watch away from campus, hang out with friends, or do homework in a different environment, Mozart's offers great coffee, a dessert bar, patios overlooking the lake and hills of Austin, and free wifi - always a plus for the hard working college kid.

Definitely head here for a change of pace from campus life and some good old fashioned people watching.

Houndstooth

If you are looking for a crisp and clean environment with what I've heard to be the biggest espresso machine in town, Houndstooth is where you should head - off of Lamar right across from Central Market. The vibe may seem hipster and uptight when you first walk in, but one conversation with the barista will calm your fears and have you feeling right at home. Don't know much about coffee yet? Don't worry, they love to offer suggestions. They are always ready to answer your coffee questions knowledgably and with a smile.

Epoch

Now if you're like me, you like coffee even at night, especially when cramming for tests or doing a group project, but where to get coffee

late at night or in the wee hours of the morning you ask? Austin's home to some great 24/7 coffee shops like Epoch. Epoch gives a homey and comfortable atmosphere for those late nights where you need to get stuff done or just want to curl up with a good book. Cheap bottomless coffee and happy, helpful employees only adds to the charm. However, it does tend to get packed during exam time.

While Starbucks or Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf may be an easy choice because of the numerous franchises, there are so many quaint, independent coffee shops around Austin that are really worth spending your time seeking out. So, next time you want to get away from life on campus, try studying somewhere new; and who knows, you may just find your new favorite place to hang out along the way.

■ LORRI MARLOW



Coffee Hot Spots

ICED OR HOT, DARK OR DECORATED -
THE PERFECT CUP OF JOE LIES JUST AROUND THE CORNER

COLLEGE DEBT CRUSHES STUDENTS

WITH RISING COSTS AND A DECLINING JOB MARKET, HOW PRACTICAL IS HIGHER EDUCATION?

In the last few years, student loans became a major issue in the United States. According to the Project on student debt in 2008, two-thirds of undergraduate students leave universities with an average of \$23,200 worth of debt. Now that student loans surpass credit cards as the leading cause of debt, many students and parents wonder if extreme debt is too high a price for a college degree.

GOOD NEWS FOR LONGHORNS

The University of Texas at Austin in particular has slightly lower than average borrowing rates with 55% of undergraduates borrowing money. Dr. Thomas Melecki, director of student financial services, attributes this to the “scholarship programs [being] somewhat better endowed than at other institutions.” UT’s more affluent student base may also be a factor. COLA students specifically borrow an average of \$23,700, about the national average.

UT Austin also has lower than average default rates—good news for students borrowing here. Only 3.3% percent of UT students default on loans, compared to 5.2% at other four-year public institutions in the U.S.

“People who graduate pay back their loans in droves,” Melecki said. However, there are, “very, very high rates of default among people who drop out.” Ninety percent of students who drop out don’t pay back their loans at all.

Students in the College of Liberal Arts should take solace in the fact that their college offers some of the cheapest tuition rates available on campus. Additionally, students should know that with flat rate tuition 12 hours of coursework costs the same as 15 or 18 hours. If you can handle 15 hours a semester, you will get more out of your loans and graduate sooner with less debt.

LIFE-LONG SPENDING HABITS

Given that loans and debt are a reality for many students, Melecki works to educate students about how to spend their money.

“We are trying to keep people from stepping in the hole [of debt] because once you’re down in the hole, you have to get out,” Melecki said.

Programs aimed at keeping students out of the hole include Bevonomics and more recently, UT for Less. Bevonomics offers workshops throughout each semester aimed at teaching smart spending. The program is designed to teach people how to deal with money both while in school and for the rest of their lives. Courses offered by Bevonomics include Managing Credit, Repaying Student Loans, and Making the Most of Your Scholarship Search. More courses are available at www.bevonomics.org. UT for Less is a leaflet available in the OSFS office offering useful tips on how to make your money go farther on campus. There are 18% fewer federal and state grant and scholarship dollars available for students at UT.

“One in five dollars has evaporated,” Melecki said. “I want to make sure that when students feel they have a financial issue they can come to our office...we can’t always solve their problem but I want to make sure people don’t miss their chance.”

MAKE USE OF YOUR RESOURCES

Those students with debt as well as those seeking improved financial literacy should view the Office of Student Financial Services as a friend. They offer multiple courses and pamphlets that will help students manage their money. The office is also staffed by trained personnel who understand the intricacies of grants, loans, and scholarships. The office’s goal is to help students, so take advantage of the aid available. Most importantly, said Melecki “Borrow for your needs, not for your wants.”

■ AILEEN O’LEARY



PHOTOS BY DANA HENNING



SMARTER WAYS TO BORROW

In an interview with NPR, the publisher of FinAid and Fastweb, Mark Kantrowitz, laid out guidelines for smart borrowing. His first tip? Choose the right major. Kantrowitz advises that the sum of your loans be approximately equivalent to your expected starting salary. This advice is easily followed by engineering students at public institutions but considerably more difficult for liberal arts majors. Kantrowitz also advises, “before you spend loan money on anything, ask yourself if you would still pay for it at twice the price.”



In The Federal War Over

Planned Parenthood

Which Side Are You On?

1916

Margaret Sanger opens first birth control clinic in Brooklyn, New York

Logo and timeline info from plannedparenthood.org

IN THE PAST YEAR anti-abortion advocates launched a massive national movement to defund abortion clinics and simultaneously pass laws that are designed to interfere with women's access to abortions. This movement proves to be dangerous as it presents a growing threat to basic civil rights guaranteed by the Constitution to all US citizens.

In 1973, the Supreme Court reviewed the landmark case *Roe v. Wade*, which dealt with the legality of abortion. The court ruled that the Constitution guarantees the protection of the right to privacy under the 9th and 14th amendments. The *Roe v. Wade* decision argued that this right to privacy "included a women's right to terminate her pregnancy" up until the fetus is viable, or able to live outside the womb (this is usually at 28 weeks).

The decision that the Supreme Court came to in the case of *Roe v. Wade* was clear. A woman has a constitutional right to privacy, which gives her the right to terminate her pregnancy, if she chooses, up until the point that the fetus is viable. Let's see how contemporary laws being manufactured by the ultra-conservative right stack up legally to the Supreme Court's decision.

In February of this year, the House of Representatives voted to strip Planned Parenthood of its federal funding in an attempt to dismantle the healthcare provider. Republicans argued that they were trying to prevent federal funds from being used to provide abortions. I'm not sure I follow this logic. I don't support the Iraq War, but that doesn't mean I get to choose what my tax dollars are spent on. Just because I don't agree with something doesn't mean I can opt out of funding it. Not only that, but only 3% of Planned Parenthood's services are abortion-related.

STI and STD testing and treatment constituted 35% of the services Planned Parenthood provided in 2009. Contraceptive services also

constituted 35% of the total services provided by Planned Parenthood. Cancer and screening prevention amounted to 16% and other women's health services (like pregnancy tests and prenatal care) constituted 10%.

Planned Parenthood is a family planning and healthcare provider. It is a non-profit organization that provides a vital service to the communities it helps:

affordable healthcare to women, men, and children. Had the Republicans succeeded in defunding Planned Parenthood, cancer screenings and other health care services would have been denied to countless United States citizens.

As each state passes laws that further restrict women's rights, their movement gains momentum and legitimacy which is extremely dangerous. This snowball needs to be stopped before it rolls any further. We need to hold our politicians accountable for their actions. This means no lying, no bending facts, and no illegal laws. Politicians should uphold *Roe v. Wade*'s ruling regardless of whether or not they agree with the Supreme Court's decision. It still stands as a Supreme Court ruling. States should not selectively pick which laws they will obey; they are obligated by the Constitution to obey the supreme law of the land.

Secondly, if you take a personal interest in preventing abortions from occurring, a sensible solution is providing comprehensive sex education to American high school students, as well as supporting the availability of affordable and easily attainable contraception.

Lastly, know your rights. Educate yourself about your rights granted to you under the Constitution. How will you know when your rights are being compromised if you aren't aware of them? It is not intelligent to rely on politicians to regulate and limit themselves. We must become a knowledgeable citizenry so we can affirm our rights at all times.

■ CHARLOTTE HOCKENS

1960

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves the sale of oral pills for contraception

1985

Anti-family planning zealots vandalize family planning and abortion clinics, assault health clinic staff, and issue death threats to doctors and staff.

1965

In *Griswold v. Connecticut*, state laws prohibiting the use of contraceptive to married couples are shot down

1973

Roe v. Wade, recognizing the constitutional right to privacy and women's right to choose abortion

1987

President Reagan proposes a domestic gag rule that forbids clinics from counseling a client about abortion no matter what.

1990

the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves the use of a long-acting, reversible, combined hormonal contraceptive implant

1996

Congress establishes a multi-million dollar federal fund for programs teaching abstinence-until-marriage exclusively

The FDA approves over-the-counter status for Plan B emergency contraception (EC) for women 18 and older, after a series of delays that elicit national outrage

2006

1995

Fourth World Conference on Women reaffirms that women's rights are human rights, calls for decriminalizing abortion around the world, and affirms the right of all women to control their own fertility

2007

The newly ultraconservative Supreme Court overturns the lower court rulings and upholds the abortion ban that President Bush signed into law in 2003.

Today

THE FIGHT BETWEEN

liberals and conservatives regarding abortion remains and will continue to be a topic that is heavily debated. Most recently the push from conservatives to ban federal funding for Planned Parenthood reflects this never-ending fight between the political right and left. Liberals center their push for abortion around a single word, "choice."

A woman has the right to choose to abort her baby up until the fetus's viability of life. This idea of choice became the standard slogan for liberals in the Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. The issue at stake for Planned Parenthood isn't whether a woman should have the right to choose to seek an abortion, but whether our tax dollars as Americans should be allocated to terminate the life of a child. The answer for conservatives is no.

The push from the political right has not been to defund abortion clinics, but to defund publicly funded abortion clinics such as Planned Parenthood. There proves to be a large difference. Although the decision of *Roe v. Wade* solidified a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy that right does not include the right to a federal subsidized abortion. Just because the United States recognizes a woman's legal right to an abortion doesn't mean that the government should be actively involved in funding it. Whether you agree or disagree with abortion tax money should still not be used for funding.

Planned Parenthood has no one to blame but themselves for this push to defund their organization. The issue at hand with Planned Parenthood isn't as simple as saying they're providing a "choice" for women. The call to action by Conservatives was proposed in lieu of recent laws violated by the organization. The laws dealt with minors who were given abortions without parental consent and cases of statutory rape going unreported. Parental rights and legal issues

surrounding how the minor got pregnant have to be taken into consideration. Conservatives are well aware of a woman's right to privacy and her right to an abortion, but abortions clinics have legal obligations before performing an abortion and they should be held to those standards. Why should tax dollars be spent on an organization that isn't complying with regulations?

To preserve its federal subsidy, Pro-Planned Parenthood liberals argue for the organization's funding because it provides services other than just abortion, one of these services being low cost availability to contraceptives. Therefore arguing that without its contraception services the abortion rate will go up. This argument proves to be false after looking at recent surveys compiled in January of this year. A fact sheet prepared by the pro-abortion rights Guttmacher Institute listed several reasons that women who have had an abortion give for their unexpected pregnancy, and not one of them listed is lack of access to contraception.

Liberals need to take a step back and re-evaluate their argument for funding. If they're arguing for funding based off other services Planned Parenthood provides, it's important to remember that hospitals around the country provide the same functions that Planned Parenthood promotes. Why should Planned Parenthood stand alone in it's own category for federal funding?

People need to be aware of the laws Planned Parenthood is violating. Liberals will continue to advocate for a woman's right to choose and back Planned Parenthood, but I am advocating for an American's right to choose where his or her hard earned tax dollars are going. Planned Parenthood has proven untrustworthy and undeserving of the American people's money. Be critical of the government's actions and know where your money is going.

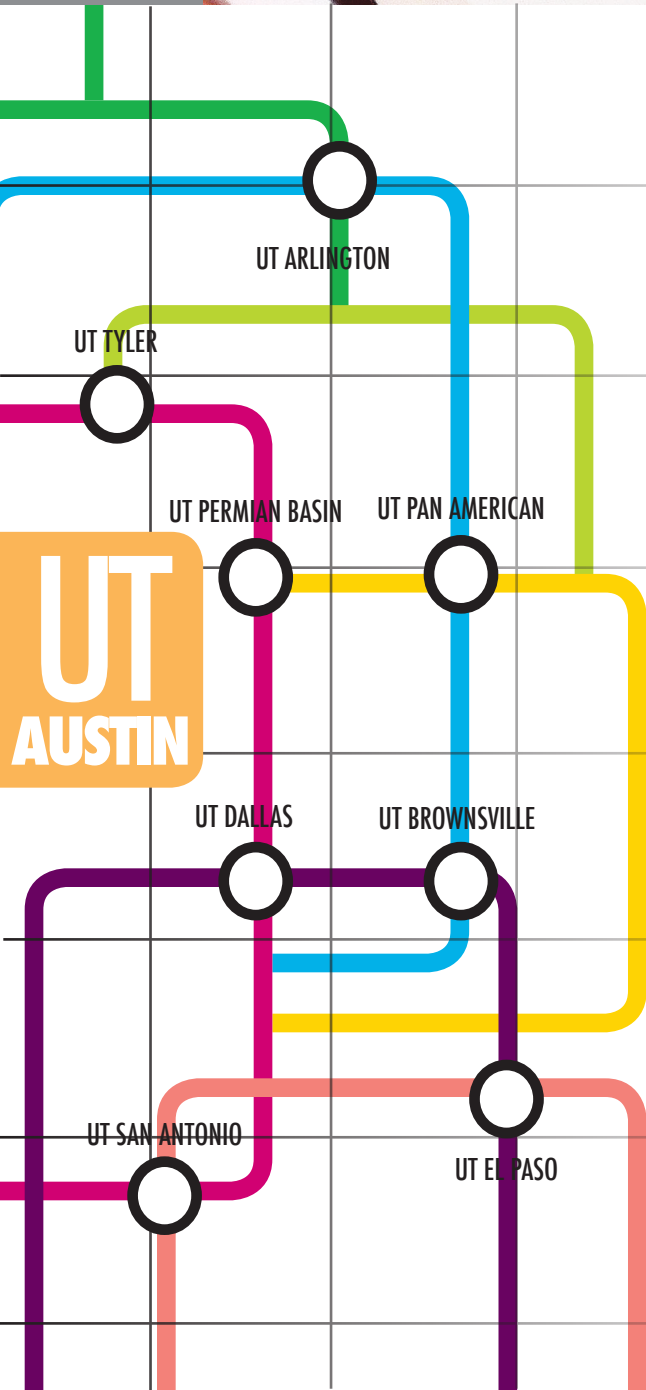
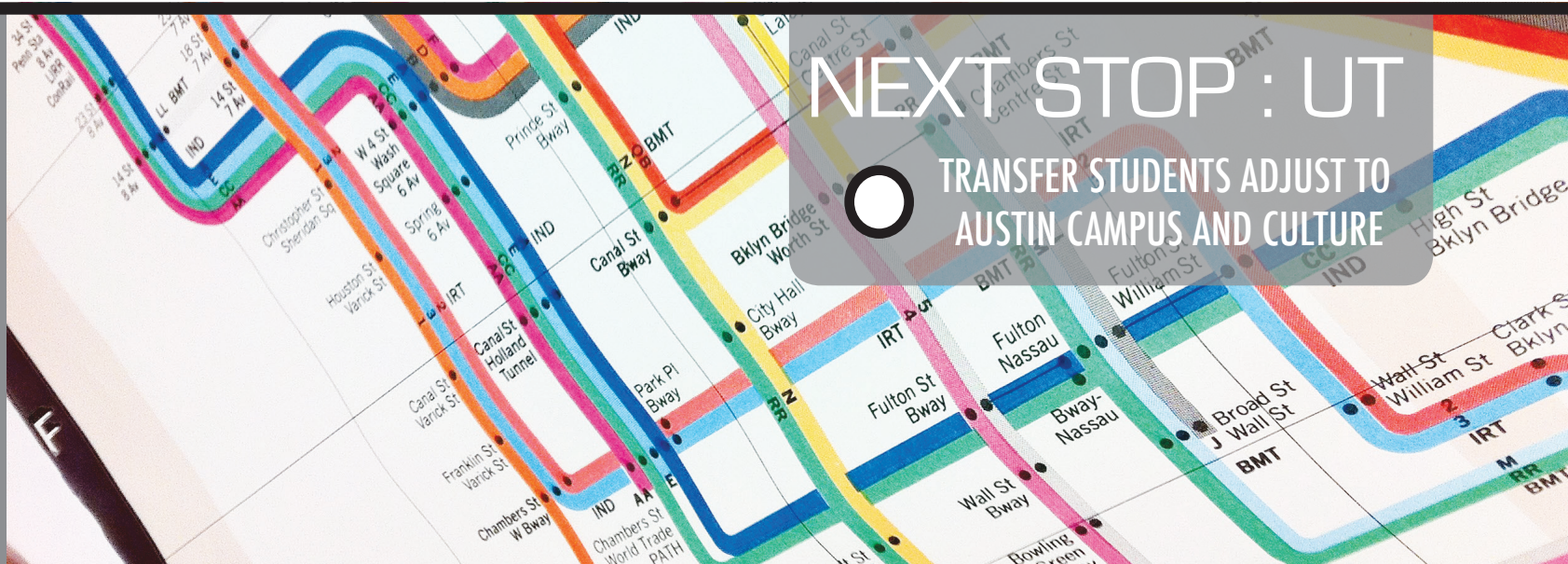
■MARISA MONTEMAYOR

Planned Parenthood reaches its goal of convincing half of all states to decline Title V abstinence-only funding. Eleven states introduce Birth Control Protection Acts to guarantee the right to access and to use contraception through statutory and/or constitutional protection

In The Federal War over

 **Planned
Parenthood**
Which Side Are You On?

TRANSFER STATION



Oh, the stereotypes that confront first-year students here at the University of Texas at Austin. It's almost automatically assumed that this person is not only a freshman, but also ignorant of the forty acres. Let me introduce you to the transfer student, one who is still deemed a "first-year", but whom deserves just as much credit and respect as those who started their education here as freshman.

The transfer student, though perhaps a bit behind on overall campus knowledge, is not new to the college experience; they have been hitting the books outside of high school for at least a year now. Yes, maybe they didn't start their education on the forty acres, but they're here now, right? Simply wanting a valued UT education, the transfer student deserves the same opportunities offered to freshman, though sometimes they do not receive it.

The Coordinated Admission Program, or CAP, is a popular route of transfer for many students. The CAP Program aims to relieve the stress encountered by students hoping to transfer by guaranteeing admission after successfully completing the program requirements, such as a certain GPA and transferable coursework. While programs like CAP can make transferring academic-wise much easier for students, it does not always guarantee a flawless transition into campus culture. In the case of Junior International Relations and Global Studies Major/Asian Studies Minor Angel Sharma, the switch from UT Arlington to UT Austin social life wasn't as simple as claiming her credits.

"Even though I was attending the Arlington campus, I was really just attending UT Austin and Arlington was a filler school in between," Sharma said. "Honestly, it was tough being a transfer student. The experience just isn't quite the same." While Sharma does not regret her choice in transferring through the CAP Program, her transfer experiences do ring true with other transfer students who chose not to transfer through programs, but decided to continue their education here.

Junior and Government Major Carisa Lopez transferred in the spring of 2011 from Collin County Community College in Plano. Like Sharma, the transfer process wasn't all trouble-free for Lopez. "The [transfer] application itself wasn't hard, it was the waiting," Lopez said. "I didn't get my acceptance until about a month

before I was supposed to move, and then I couldn't register for classes until a week before school started."

The time of registration for courses is another struggle affecting transfer students. Taking place after both current students and freshman sign up for classes, transfer students arrive late in the game and have no choice but to build a schedule out of remaining classes.

"We weren't able to register for classes until we met with an orientation advisor, which wasn't held until a week before school started. By that time most classes were full so I didn't get first pick of what I wanted. It was very hard to plan," said Lopez about his late registration.

"There is a bit of a learning curve going from a small community college to a school that is practically its own town. But, I'm a fairly outgoing person, so I forced myself to step out of my comfort zone and join a couple of clubs. It's definitely not the same as a freshman living in the residence halls, though," said Lopez.

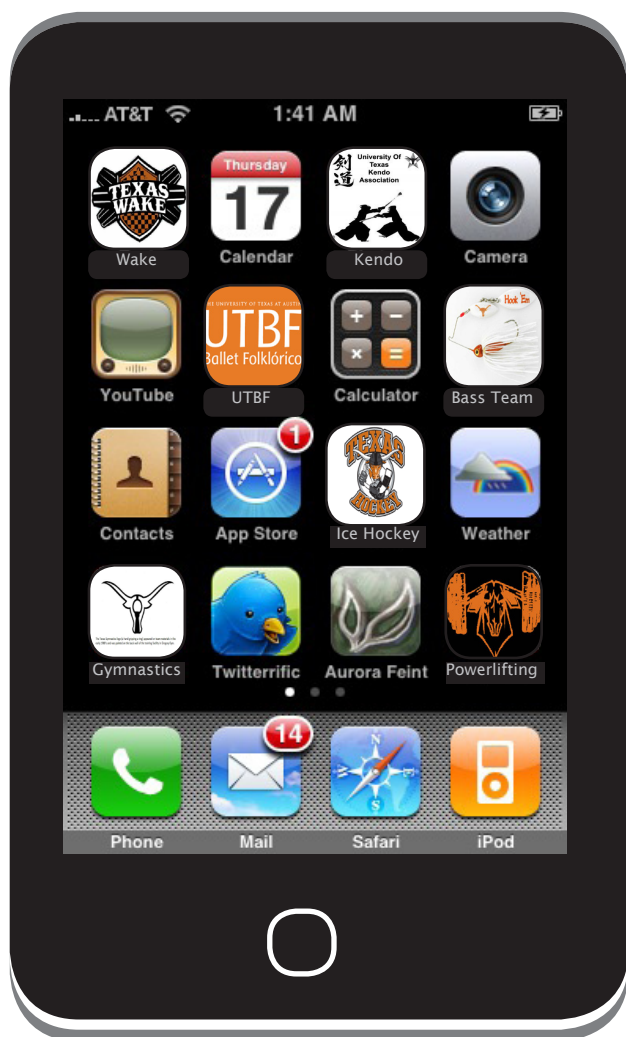
The experience of living in the residence halls is one that some transfer students miss out on, like Sharma and Lopez, but that some have the opportunity to experience. Hailing from UT Dallas, Junior Math Major Alex Lin was simply too intrigued by Austin to remain at UT Dallas any longer. While he still experienced the same registration struggles that many transfer students face, he advocated sticking out the sometimes dreaded waitlist system in order to get the classes you want and need. As far as social life goes, Lin had a slightly different experience than Sharma and Lopez.

"I lived on campus my first year," Lin said. "So the rest of the experience, like meeting new people and getting to know the ins-and-outs of campus was a part of the fun. Everyone else in my hall was doing the same thing, so I was in good company."

While transfer students may not have started their education on the forty acres, their assimilation into campus is crucial in the long run. The true diversity that transfer students bring from their different walks of life and previous educations only further add to the variety here on campus. Transfer students, in their own ways, "Keep Austin Weird".

■ MALLORY FOUTCH

SUBWAY MAP FROM CREATIVECOMMONS.ORG



THERE'S A SPORT FOR THAT

■ CASSIE MANEEN
PAGE DESIGN BY CASSIE MANEEN



TEXAS KENDO



TEXAS WAKE



BASS TEAM



BALLET FOLKLORICO

As Longhorns we enjoy the luxury of having reputable sports organizations—football, volleyball, basketball, soccer, baseball, and swimming to name a few, and in many burnt orange eyes those essentially cover our bases. For those who can't do, you're welcomed to cheer from the sidelines. Luckily, that is not truly the case at the University of Texas. One of the best parts of our esteemed forty acres is the diversity of our student population. Though we love supporting our student athletes and take pride in a tower glowing orange after a win, the UT community tries to offer activities for every kind of athlete on campus. One would be surprised by the vast and varied club teams boasted by UT RecSports. Simply put, if you find that you are not a conventional athlete, there's a sport for that.

NOT YOUR AVERAGE TEAM

The university has a cheerleading squad, pom squad, and dance team, but if you're interested in keeping the rhythm with a dose of Mexican culture, we have something for that. According the University of Texas at Austin Ballet Folklorico (UTBF) website, "Ballet Folklorico develops its members to represent the rich and unique culture of Mexico. Our group has an always expanding repertoire of dances from the many culturally rich regions of Mexico." With choreography taught by experienced members and guest instructors, UTBF welcomes interested students of any expertise. UTBF President, Gabriella Rodriguez said, "We understand the story told in the dance...and we as dancers act the part, it is more meaningful." In addition, the group has their own authentic costumes and accessories to boot, so if you're hesitant about performing they welcome assistance with costume and prop management too.

If dancing isn't quite your speed, there are plenty more unique sports to try. As far as contact is concerned, Japanese Kendo offers something that's literally a world away from the football variety. The University of Texas Kendo Association said, "Kendo originated from Kenjitsu, the actual form of sword

fighting used by the samurai...over the years, wooden swords replaced real swords, the use of protective armor and a bamboo sword (the shinai) were introduced to further reduce injury to the participants for matches." Like many of the university's recreational sports, Texas Kendo accepts students with no previous experience, but from the looks of it, this is not for the faint of heart.

UT's swimming program is nationally recognized, but Longhorn water sports extend well beyond pool lanes. If you're an extreme sport junkie, or accustomed to summers spent on the lake, then yep, we have something for that too. Texas Wake originated from a group of friends noticing a need for a club that promoted the culture of wakeboarding. This organization welcomes participants from all levels of experience, and allows for anyone to simply have the opportunity to improve. Junior and Texas Wake team member Chelsea Carbonel said, "There is always someone on the boat who can give you tips and you can really focus on getting better." Texas Wake placed first in the 2010 National Championship competition, and this year's championship takes place in Las Vegas, and well, that just adds another few points for unconventionality.

FIND THE ONE FOR YOU

You are still encouraged to paint your chests orange and scream expletives at the other guys on Saturdays, but when it comes to finding an athletic event that is a bit more distinctive, all you have to do is look. We cover most of the conventionally unique sports like ultimate Frisbee or disc golf, but beyond that we have table tennis, archery, and a bass team. There is also a tradition of clubs that play classic polo, partake in parkour, or indulge in live-action role-playing (LARP). Still can't find a fit for you? With two friends, ten bucks, and a trip to the Student Services Building you can start your own club on campus. Maybe beyond racquets, hoops, and field goals and with an assorted student body by your side, you will find more than a sport for that, but a sport for you.



RAISING THE BAR

Recent reports state that The University of Texas boasts the 2nd highest graduation rate in Texas with close to 80% of first-time students graduating within six years of enrollment; which far exceeds the national average of 60%. With a relatively low tuition rate and amount of money spent on each student, the university still manages to keep high standards with highly regarded programs in various subjects. In spite of its size, UT serves as a model of efficiency in a state that ranks among the worst in the nation.

Though UT Austin operates efficiently when compared to nation as a whole, room for improvement can be made. The university has a four-year graduation rate of around 50%. Very few public American universities of similar size have higher graduation rates, but with slow economic growth and less funding available, universities must become more efficient without lowering standards and sacrificing quality education. Since raising tuition faces widespread opposition, and incoming freshman cost less to accommodate, raising graduation rates is one of the few ways the university can raise revenue without lowering academic standards.

One of the proposed plans to increase revenue involves increasing the number of incoming freshman admitted to the university. In order to accommodate the increased number of students, class sizes must increase. Also, adjunct professors and part-time lecturers take the place of full-time professors. Though some large classes are necessary for certain courses that everyone takes, they tend to be some of the least helpful. Extending the size of upper division courses, where the student-teacher ratio ought to be the lowest, worsens the experience for students.

"Large classes are the bane of my existence" said Alyse Camus, a sophomore American Studies and IRG major. "I hate having to take them because it is extremely difficult to have any true discourse in the class."

HOOKING 4YEAR GRADUATION RATES

■ USMAN MASOOD

"Large classes are the bane of my existence. I hate having to take them because it is extremely difficult to have any true discourse in the class. Instead of feeling like I'm contributing to the class, I just feel like I go to be talked at even when these classes try to incorporate discussion sections."

— Alyse Camus

INCREASING ADMISSION
NUMBERS THREATENS
CLASS SIZES. WILL
UT HAVE TO SAY
GOODBYE TO INTIMATE
CLASSROOM SETTINGS
IF GRADUATION RATES
DON'T INCREASE?



PHOTOS BY MARISA MONTEMAYOR
DR. CRYSTAL KURZEN AND HER CONTEMPORARY LATINO/A LITERATURE AND CULTURE ENGLISH CLASS



OPEN FORUM

GRADUATION RATES DISCUSSION OPENS FLOOR TO STUDENT INPUT

On Tuesday, September 27th the Liberal Arts Council hosted a public forum discussing concerns over the University of Texas' graduation rates. Liberal Arts Deans and Special Task Force members, Randy Diehl and Marc Musick attended as well as students from across the campus, other faculty members and local legislators. This forum followed the State of the University Address, wherein President Powers revealed his plans to increase UT's four-year graduation rate from about 51% to at least 70% within the next five years—no small task considering no other comparable universities boast such a statistic.

In response to meeting this challenging goal, a special task force was assembled and Dean Diehl said, "Most of this problem will be solved in a few of the big colleges...I assure you, we are very, very serious about accomplishing this goal." The concept of ushering more students out in four years may seem like undue pressure to those already

struggling to complete degree requirements, but Dean Musick added, "I bleed orange. I love UT, I think we are one of the best universities in the nation...we're talking about shaving a semester or two...we're not talking about a huge shift."

The pair discussed proposed initiatives to address the issue by improving students' sense of academic and social integration a concept Dean Musick, also an experienced sociologist, said is about one's perception of fitting in on campus, and is directly related to academic success, wherein Dean Diehl quipped, "Think of what Michael Dell could've achieved in life, if he had only graduated from UT".

Though committed to reaching the graduation rate goal, everyone in the room strongly opposed the idea of softening curriculum, or expanding classes to make credit easier to obtain. Dean Diehl said, "We are not going to degrade the quality of the UT degree, by making it easier to pass course."

■ CASSIE MANEEN

GRADUATION RATE FORUM PHOTO BY MARISA MONTEMAYOR

Instead of feeling like I'm contributing to the class, I just feel like I go to be talked at even when these classes try to incorporate discussion sections."

Small seminar classes give students several important advantages when compared to large lecture classes. They allow people to more easily get to know their professors. In a large lecture hall, even the best professor simply talks at the student during class, whereas in a small classroom a professor is able to talk with their students on a one on one basis. One can give better input by having more opportunity to comment on the material and ask questions when having trouble.

A smaller setting also allows students to know their classmates better. That way people having trouble in class have a better support network to get the help they need. Writing flag classes provide some of the best help for students who don't necessarily understand the material right away. They require peer review, second drafts, consist of no more than 30 students, and the professor grades papers instead of Teaching Assistants. By offering this type of help whether through classes or other programs, the university can help struggling students improve their grades and graduate earlier.

The 15 hours of natural sciences needed for all liberal arts major serves as one of the most frustrating degree requirements for students. It requires students to take difficult classes in subjects that relate to very few Liberal Arts disciplines.

"When am I, an English and advertising major, going to use Geology or Biology?" said Karan Sethi, a fourth year student "When am I going to have to label a cell structure to get a job at an advertising agency? Why am I wasting my money on classes that only hinder my academic record? But the state of Texas deems it important that I take these classes. I don't believe the requirements should be removed, but they should be trimmed down to something manageable."

Administrators introduced core requirements in order to provide a well-rounded college experience. Given the nature of most liberal arts disciplines, students must attain a basic understanding in a variety of subjects; however, one automatically forces a student to love a subject they show no interest in. Many students try finding ways to get around natural

"Consider two of the more important values in this table: graduation rates and graduation efficiency. Figure 5 shows these values for UT Austin and the averages for other groupings of universities. The bars in the figure represent the overall graduation rate, the line represents efficiency. Ideally universities would want their respective bars to be high and the lines to be low. Universities perform best when the height of the line is lower than the height of the bar, and the bigger that distance the more successful they are overall in terms of graduation rates."



FIGURE 5: GRADUATION RATES AND EFFICIENCY AT UT AUSTIN AND IN OTHER UNIVERSITY GROUPINGS

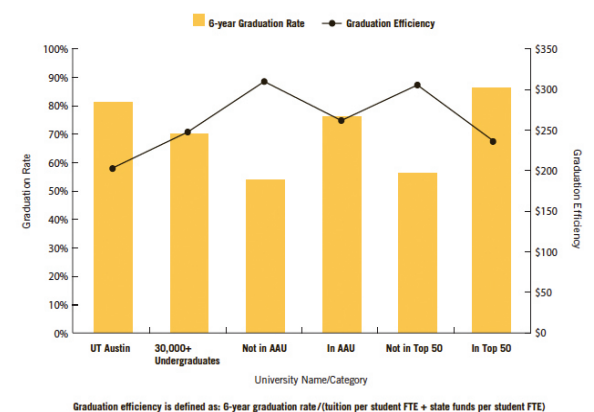
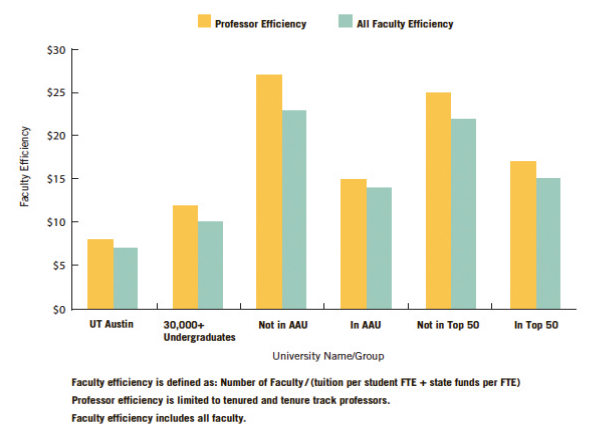


FIGURE 6: FACULTY EFFICIENCY AT UT AUSTIN AND IN OTHER UNIVERSITY GROUPINGS



Info graphics and description from Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Marc Musick's report "Analysis of Efficiency and Graduation Rates at The University of Texas at Austin and Other Public Research Universities in the United States"

science requirements by purposely taking easier classes such as Physical Science, Liberal Arts Biology, or classes on the approved alternative list. Others fulfill their natural science credits through community colleges, and the fact that those classes don't affect their university GPA encourages them to work less hard.

The College of Liberal Arts requires most majors to take four semesters of foreign language. For most people, that requires an additional 18 hours of coursework on their degree plan; which is well over an entire semester and over \$5,000 in tuition. Additionally, all first year classes are either five hours or six hours a semester. These classes often take up the most time, even if they don't relate to a student's major. In an increasingly globalized economy, knowledge of foreign languages and culture becomes more important. But foreign language is more relevant in some majors than others.

UT may have a very impressive graduation rate, but there still exists a significant gap between the graduation rates of lower income students and middle to high-income students. The cost of tuition, cost of living, and cost of books gives less well off students an incentive to drop out of school and join the workforce earlier. The additional requirements put a heavier burden on these students without necessarily increasing the quality of their education. Solutions such as reducing the number of full-time professors and increasing class sizes actually lower the quality of education and lowers the graduation rate. And increasing tuition shows very little causal effect on graduation as a whole, but th

UT administrators out of necessity started efforts to increase graduation rates through things like the UTurn program, but at the end of the day throwing money at the solution only accomplishes so much. Reforms put forth by the university administration goes a long way; however, raising graduation rates requires effort on the part of faculty and staff as well. Moreover, The University of Texas isn't an isolated institution. Improvements in Texas' primary and secondary education system as a whole makes students better prepared to enter college. ■



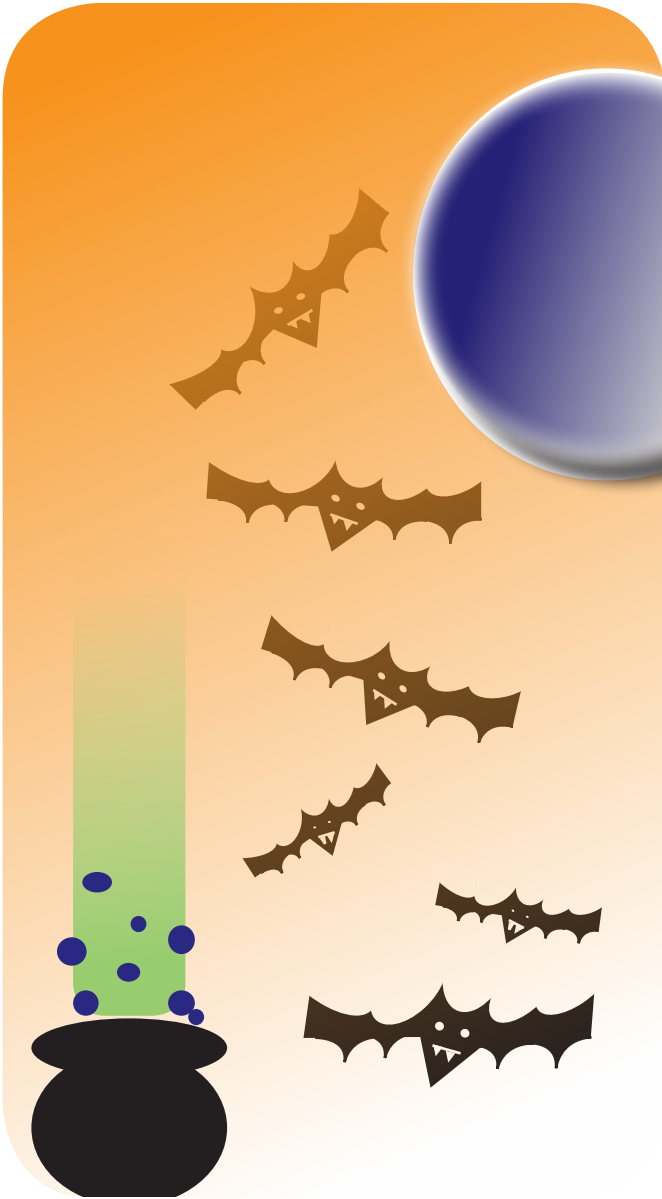
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN COLLEGE of LIBERAL ARTS		GENERAL (UNDECLARED) 2008-2010 DEGREE PLAN (expires 08/2016)	
UNIVERSITY CORE REQUIREMENTS		COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS REQUIREMENTS	
Academic Area (state core #)	CORE = 42 HOURS	Foreign Language: A level of proficiency equal to or above completion of the fourth semester in one language	
First-Year Signature Course (090)	UGS 302 or 303	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Communication (010)	<input type="checkbox"/> RHE 306	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
WRITING COMPONENTS / FLAGS		LIBERAL ARTS WRITING COMPONENT / FLAG 2 courses	
Core Writing Component / Flag (010) 3 hours May not fulfill another Core requirement		May be fulfilled by Core or other requirement One must be upper-division	
Humanities (040)	<input type="checkbox"/> E 316K		
American & Texas Government (070)	<input type="checkbox"/> GOV 310L and <input type="checkbox"/> GOV 312L	Social Science: 3 hours Must be in a different field from that used in the core, chosen from the following areas: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Linguistics, Psychology, Sociology	
American History (060)	3 hours US History ^A 3 hours US (or TX) History ^A	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Social Science (080)	3 hours ^A		
Mathematics (020)	3 hours ^A	Math: 3 hours excluding M 301, 316K, and 316L May be fulfilled by Core Requirement in Mathematics	
Natural Science, Part I (030)	6 hours in a single field of study ^A	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Natural Science, Part II (031)	3 hours in a field of study different from that used in Part I ^A	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Visual & Performing Arts (050)	3 hours ^A	General Culture: 3 hours Selected from Architecture, Classics, Fine Arts, Philosophy, or list of approved alternatives ^C	
NOTES FOR CORE & LIBERAL ARTS REQUIREMENTS: ^A Must be from approved core list on reverse side. ^B Notes for Core and Liberal Arts Math & Science Requirements: 1) Max. 9 hours in one subject can be used for the Core and Liberal Arts natural sciences/math requirements combined. 2) Max. 12 hours in M, CS, & SSC combined can be used for the Core and Liberal Arts natural sciences/math requirements combined. 3) Max. of 3 hours in either the history of science or the philosophy of science may be used. ^C Lists of approved alternatives available in the Dean's Office and at www.utexas.edu/cola/courses/		Courses that count for Core & Liberal Arts requirements may also count for the major or minor	
MAJOR & MINOR REQUIREMENTS			
MAJOR: GENERAL (CONSULT 2008-2010 UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG FOR SPECIFIC MAJOR REQUIREMENTS)			
* At least 18 hours of the major must be done in residence			
Total hours required: <input type="checkbox"/>			
Total upper-division hours required: <input type="checkbox"/>			
MINOR: Consult 2008-2010 Undergraduate Catalog for specific minor requirements * At least 6 hours of the minor must be done in residence For most majors, 12 hours (including 6 hours upper-division) in <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>			
ELECTIVES Additional hours as needed to complete the minimum 120 hours required for a B.A. and upper-division and in residence hours (see checklist below). The following courses will not count toward electives: PHY 306, PED, PI, and KIN 119, SPE 140L, Music 200, 200A, or 200B.			
GENERAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST:			
<input type="checkbox"/> A minimum of 120 hours total <input type="checkbox"/> 36 hours upper-division (18 hours upper-division in residence) <input type="checkbox"/> 60 hours in residence (Not credit-by-examination, correspondence, extension) <input type="checkbox"/> 18 hours of major and 6 hours of minor in residence <input type="checkbox"/> 24 of last 30 hours in residence		<input type="checkbox"/> No more than 36 hours in one subject <input type="checkbox"/> No more than 36 hours in one college (except Liberal Arts & Natural Sciences) <input type="checkbox"/> No more than 16 hours pass/fail (only electives may be taken pass/fail) <input type="checkbox"/> UT Grade Point Average of 2.00 in all courses attempted <input type="checkbox"/> Major Grade Point Average of 2.00 (see specific majors for exceptions)	

2008-2010 PLAN

CORE REQUIREMENTS

2010-2012 PLAN

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN COLLEGE of LIBERAL ARTS		GENERAL (UNDECLARED) 2010-2012 DEGREE PLAN (expires 08/2018)	
UNIVERSITY CORE REQUIREMENTS		COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS REQUIREMENTS	
Academic Area (state core #)	CORE = 42 HOURS	Foreign Language: A level of proficiency equal to or above completion of the fourth semester in one language	
First-Year Signature Course (090)	UGS 302 or 303	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Communication (010)	<input type="checkbox"/> RHE 306	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
WRITING FLAGS		LIBERAL ARTS WRITING FLAG 2 courses	
Core Writing Flag (010) 3 hours May not fulfill another Core requirement		May be fulfilled by Core or other requirement One must be upper-division	
Humanities (040)	<input type="checkbox"/> E 316K		
American & Texas Government (070)	<input type="checkbox"/> GOV 310L (required) and <input type="checkbox"/> GOV 312L, 312P or 312R	Social Science: 3 hours Must be in a different field from that used in the core. Core approved courses in Social Science will count toward this requirement. List of additional approved courses available in the Liberal Arts Student Division or in your department.	
American History (060)	3 hours US History ^A 3 hours US (or TX) History ^A	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Social and Behavioral Sciences (080)	3 hours ^A		
Mathematics (020)	3 hours ^A	Math: 3 hours excluding M 301, 316K, and 316L May be fulfilled by Core Requirement in Mathematics	
Science & Technology, Part I (030)	6 hours in a single field of study ^A	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Science & Technology, Part II (031)	3 hours in a field of study different from that used in Part I ^A	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Visual & Performing Arts (050)	3 hours ^A	Cultural Expression, Human Experience & Thought: 3 hours List of approved courses available in the Liberal Arts Student Division or in your department.	
NOTES FOR CORE & LIBERAL ARTS REQUIREMENTS: ^A Must be from approved core list on reverse side. ^B Notes for Core Math, Science & Technology and Liberal Arts Math & Science requirements: 1) Max. 9 hours in one subject can be used for the Core Math, Science & Technology and Liberal Arts natural sciences/math requirements combined. 2) Max. 12 hours in M, CS, & SSC combined can be used for the Core Math, Science & Technology and Liberal Arts natural sciences/math requirements combined. 3) Max. 3 hours in either the history of science or the philosophy of science may be used.		Courses that count for Core & Liberal Arts requirements may also count for the major or minor	
MAJOR & MINOR REQUIREMENTS			
MAJOR: GENERAL (CONSULT 2010-2012 UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG FOR SPECIFIC MAJOR REQUIREMENTS)			
* At least 18 hours of the major must be done in residence			
Total hours required: <input type="checkbox"/>			
Total upper-division hours required: <input type="checkbox"/>			
MINOR: Consult 2010-2012 Undergraduate Catalog for specific minor requirements * At least 6 hours of the minor must be done in residence For most majors, 12 hours (including 6 hours upper-division) in <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>			
ELECTIVES Additional hours as needed to complete the minimum 120 hours required for a B.A. and upper-division and in residence hours (see checklist below). The following courses will not count toward electives: PHY 306, PED, PI, and KIN 119, SPE 140L, Music 200, 200A, or 200B.			
GENERAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST:			
<input type="checkbox"/> A minimum of 120 hours total <input type="checkbox"/> 36 hours upper-division (18 hours upper-division in residence) <input type="checkbox"/> 60 hours in residence (Not credit-by-examination, correspondence, extension) <input type="checkbox"/> 18 hours of major and 6 hours of minor in residence <input type="checkbox"/> 24 of last 30 hours in residence		<input type="checkbox"/> No more than 36 hours in one subject <input type="checkbox"/> No more than 36 hours in one college (except Liberal Arts & Natural Sciences) <input type="checkbox"/> No more than 16 hours pass/fail (only electives may be taken pass/fail) <input type="checkbox"/> UT Grade Point Average of 2.00 in all courses attempted <input type="checkbox"/> Major Grade Point Average of 2.00 (see specific majors for exceptions)	



HALLOWEEN HAVOC

SOME OF THE SCARIEST ATTRACTIONS IN AUSTIN

Ofentimes, Halloween proves to be full of tricks, treats, and juvenile pranks fumbling through the neighborhood, but in a college town, that night is no longer child's play. Long gone are the days of cartoonish costumes, pillow cases overflowing with candy, and bed by midnight every October 31st. Austin brings a nearly week-long slew of events dedicated to Halloween for the adult in all of us. If freezing nearly topless in your makeshift "Hawaiian" costume is not quite the thrill you're seeking, Austin has plenty of ways to scare the pants off of you anyways.

Austin Ghost Tours features walking tours of haunted Austin locales that are all historically based. Before writing them off as your mother's kind of adventure, check out some of their credentials. They have been featured on Bio Channels My Ghost Story and have a formal affiliation with the Public Broadcasting Service. The historic Driskill Hotel functions as the tour's claim to fame where the company said, "Colonel Driskill himself is said to wander through... his ghost is marked by the smell of cigar smoke...The spirit of a young child bouncing ball haunts the first floor lobby, the daughter of a Senator fell to her death while chasing a ball down the grand staircase." One of the more controversial stops on the these tours relates to rumors about room 525 which was said to be bricked up due to a broken-hearted bride's ghastly suicide after being left at the altar; twenty years later—it happened again. Spooked yet?

For those feeling courageous enough to brave the Austin's ghosts without a guide, many notable local cemeteries have multiple cases of reported paranormal activity. In an article about the five most haunted places in Austin, Fiona Broome, author of The Ghosts of Austin Who They Are and Where to Find Them said, "Oakwood Cemetery and its annex may be Austin's most beautiful and haunted cemetery. There, you can visit the graves of many...including Susannah

Wilkerson Dickinson and Ben Thompson." Additionally, Broome's book alludes to citings of the ghosts of servant girls, allegedly victims of the famed 19th century serial killer, Jack the Ripper. Though, placing Ripper in Austin proves to be a controversial topic, many people link an 1880s Austin "Servant Girl Annihilator" to the crimes of the notorious serial killer.

We should not merely focus on hypothetical haunting as Halloween is a night designed to scare all of us, cynics and fanatics alike. If it's guaranteed blood-curdling, heart-in-your-throat, wet pants scaring you need, it's nothing good old gory entertainment can't do. Austin is home to many seasonal haunted house attractions featuring companies of actors who just get plain joy from others' horror, but the overwhelming opinion of the best haunted house experience in Austin is House of Torment located at Highland Mall. This year's Torment experience consists of two different houses at one location. The Reckoning is premised on a post-apocalyptic search for the last living human flesh where Nemesis, who leads the Soul Reapers, is essentially out to eat you alive. On a different note, 2011 Torment will feature a new experience called Cursed featuring the likes of the "The Fountain of Death" and "The Spike Pit". In case you aren't quite queasy yet, according to the House of Torment, "Pure evil stalks the night...Blood thirsty savages, possessed pirates, and the foulest of the wicked call this place home." Think Pirates of the Caribbean meets House of 1,000 Corpses.

Austin is the entertainment capital of the south, and maintains that reputation every October 31st. Of course, general collegiate frivolity is still available in UT's west campus or downtown during the city's annual Halloween on 6th celebration where the boulevard of bars welcomes costumed customers, but if it's the scare that you're in search for, don't forget to look before you turn the corner. ■CASSIE MANEEN

THE SLACKER WHO IS THE SLACKER AND WHAT TREATS DOES HE EXPECT THIS OCTOBER?

"Halloween is the one night a year when girls can dress like a total slut and no other girls can say anything about it." – Cady Heron, from Mean Girls

Whether it's slutty superhero, the moral degradation of an innocent Disney character, Snooki, or just lingerie and bunny ears, it seems such a statement is a sound sociological principle among college females. But why? Unfortunately as a male, I feel biased and ignorant to the customs of females, but I'll do my best to put myself in the stilettos of a budding whore during this analysis.

Anyone can see that one's peers play a huge role in what one does. You must conform to your peers to survive and the same goes for Halloween. If everyone's dressing like a naughty schoolgirl, and you dress like Mother Theresa (God forbid promiscuous Mother Theresa), not only are you socially unacceptable, but you're a potential photobomb and are to be avoided at all costs. Naturally, people do what other people do, so if everyone's a tramp, you'd better be one too.

As the great Shakespeare said, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players." We act certain ways to entertain certain audiences. In the case of Halloween, the stage appears similar to a strip club, but what's more important is the audience. What makes it acceptable is who you're entertaining – it's what is expected of you. Since we're in college and in the spirit of Halloween, your only audience to impress is your peers, and if they're all looking like skanks, either look like them to make it appropriate, or be super skank – impress them. After all, I'd assume choosing to look like a slut is attention seeking in itself, looking like a super slut only makes you look good at it.

Unfortunately when people conform, they often copy one another. I find the lack of creativity in slutty Halloween costumes to be appalling. Only so many skanky social service worker costumes are bearable at a given time, and although a sexy nurse, fireman, and police officer may be able to provide their social services to a young man in need, they're a social disservice when they gather in one

place. Costumes that are mildly original aren't the same trashiness year after year, but are imitations of popular culture, like a celebrity, for instance....

After careful study, I have found the most perfect costume a woman could wear for this year's Slutty Halloween. The Casey Anthony costume! Both promiscuous woman and suspected cold blooded murderer, this costume's awesome. Not only is it the embodiment of horror, but it's perfect for the party scene! No worries, if the party gets crashed by the police and you're at risk for an MIP, I have a feeling you'll be able to trick the judicial system.

But as I take off my hipster glasses, it appears that Slutty Halloween is slutty simply because it can be. It gives people an excuse to dress up in a risqué, not normally acceptable fashion. Like Cady Heron said, a girl can look like a tramp because she can. Just know that if you ask me trick or treat, one of the two is pretty apparent.

■THE SLACKER
DESIGN BY CASSIE MANEEN

P	G	C	Y	H	I	P	S	T	E	R	Y	I
I	C	A	L	I	L	L	W	N	N	H	O	K
M	O	S	R	B	T	S	A	E	A	Z	T	O
T	S	E	L	U	R	L	N	E	U	L	Y	O
R	T	Y	V	L	A	R	T	W	G	R	T	N
E	U	X	N	C	M	I	H	O	H	I	I	S
A	M	N	N	P	P	G	O	L	T	G	R	S
T	E	S	U	I	T	B	N	L	Y	L	B	K
N	A	M	E	R	I	F	Y	A	Z	O	E	A
Y	X	E	S	T	S	Y	H	H	W	O	L	N
C	B	A	R	S	S	E	B	Z	G	H	E	K
O	U	N	K	L	S	Z	J	Z	C	C	C	Y
R	S	L	N	I	O	Q	R	A	U	S	A	U

TRICK-OR-TRAMPS

MEAN GIRLS HALLOWEEN CASEY ANTHONY	COSTUME CELEBRITY HIPSTER TRAMP OR	TREAT SEXY NURSE SKANKY FIREMAN	SCHOOLGIRL NAUGHTY SNOOKI STRIPCLUB BAR
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THE MIND AND BODY LAB

HOW THE UNIVERSITY CAN HELP YOU DEFEAT **STRESS**

How UT Students Relax



*Based on a survey on 52 students
PAGE DESIGN BY RACHEL MARINO

Feeling overwhelmed? Well, you're not alone. According to a recent survey prepared by UCLA, college students are feeling more stressed than fifteen years ago. More than 30 percent of college freshmen reported feeling overwhelmed. Too much stress can lead to anxiety and often times a state of depression. Depression affects over 19 million adults in the United States each year, and in a recent report by a national college health survey, 10 percent of college students have been diagnosed with depression. With the passing of midterms and the onset of finals, these numbers should strike a chord with individuals crushed by academic and personal stress. Luckily for students, UT offers countless avenues to help you combat stress. The Mind and Body Lab, a subsidiary of the Counseling and Mental Health Center, is located on the fifth floor of the Student Services Building (SSB) and houses self-paced activities to help students relax.

To enter the lab, a student needs only their UT ID card which is then traded at the front desk for a pair of headphones. Once inside, students have access to the many features of the lab which include self paced exercises in meditation, relaxing music tracks and the benefit of a dark, quiet room.

"There are several different listening stations in The Mind and Body Lab where

students are able to access dozens of different relaxation exercises," Counseling and Mental Health Center Outreach Coordinator Laura Ebedy said. "They can try out things like meditation, deep breathing, guided imagery, [and] all different types of relaxation exercises that can be really helpful in managing stress."

Government Freshman Kyla Crumley is one of the students that visits the lab in times of stress.

"I most definitely took advantage of everything the lab had to offer," Crumley said. "[The relaxing] music, darkness, [and] reclining chairs. It was a time for me to let go and just step away from my stress filled world for an hour and enjoy some peace and quiet. I felt more relaxed and rested than I have in a very long time".

However, the Mind and Body Lab is not the only resource available to students through the Counseling and Mental Health Center. Classes and groups organized by the Center help students learn ways to manage their stress. The group registration opens at the beginning of the semester and usually reserves spaces for 10 people in each group. Some groups offered are Tools to Manage Your Anxiety, Its All Relative- Overcoming Struggles in our Families, and Courage to be Imperfect. For those unable to register mid-semester, the



Mindfulness Meditation group meets every Tuesday and is open to students on a walk-in basis.

Each year the Center hosts events specifically aimed to educate students on how to de-stress, the biggest of which is Stress Fest. The April event is a conglomeration of the efforts of many groups, such as the Counseling and Mental Health Center, RecSports, University Health Services, among many others. Free to students, Stress Fest offers acupuncture, massage chairs, and much more.

So next time you feel overwhelmed by stress, check out one of the many campus resources geared specifically to help you beat back the shadow of stress.

■ MICHELLE JACKSON
PHOTO BY LORRI MARLOW

A DEFENSE FOR LIBERAL ARTS - A DEFENSE FOR **PASSION**

A LIBERAL ARTS ESSAY CONTEST

Liberal arts is the pursuit of knowledge for the sake of knowledge. We learn about ancient music tradition, the indigenous cultures of Asia and the philosophies of the Enlightenment not because we anticipate that we can trade them in for money but because we are passionate about learning. That's not to say engineering or business majors or other practical people who land jobs right out of college are not passionate, because they are (both of my parents are passionate engineers). But what makes liberal arts special is that it is not inherently utilitarian. Its purpose is to increase our personal understanding of the world. Liberal arts is, well, art.

GOTTA HAVE HEART

When someone majors in liberal arts, he or she is willing to risk job security to pursue passion. Passion is risky. Passion isn't logical. Passion is the road less taken. The heart overtakes the mind and the thirst for knowledge pulls us out of our safety zones. It takes us on planes to Paris to study art or into remote villages to study culture. And from this, we bring our newfound knowledge to the rest of the world with the hopes of bringing to it a greater understanding. Passion makes us wonder if perhaps there is something greater to life than our own

stability, that maybe we, the human race, can reach a better stability if we first dare to rock the boat.

YOU MAJORED IN WHAT!?

Many times when I tell people that I am majoring in international relations, they ask me skeptically what I want to do with my degree. What could I possibly do with all this useless knowledge? How could my dad and mom graduate from MIT and Carnegie-Mellon (respectively) for chemical engineering and I'm majoring in ... what was it again?

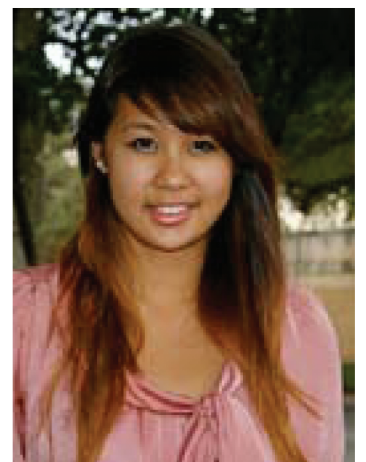
I decided to major in international relations first and foremost because I am fascinated by the world. I believe that in order to evolve as a person of the world, I need to understand my place inside of it. To me, this is the most valuable form of education. Of course this rationale doesn't always strike a chord with a family of engineers so I like to remind them that many notable people have majored or concentrated in international affairs ranging from former president John F. Kennedy to journalist Anderson Cooper to our current president, Barack Obama. Many incredible, revolutionary people have majored in liberal arts and have carried their knowledge to various vocations in the world. I plan to carry my knowledge into law. When I tell people

this, relief dawns on their faces because it finally makes sense, "Oh international law! Of course!" But this isn't necessarily true; like I said before, my major feeds my passion and my intellectual curiosity, not a utilitarian goal. It makes me a more learned and aware person and equips me with the mindset I need to approach the world in whichever direction I choose. But I'll cross that bridge when I get to it.

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

In the face of skepticism and overbearing logic, I will defend liberal arts as long as I believe passion is necessary for human life. We need people who dedicate their lives to learning about what they love and sharing it with the rest of the world. We need the artsy types, the risk-takers, the pioneers. We need people that know about our past to shape the minds of our future. Engineers, businessmen and doctors may improve our lives through technology, but liberal arts majors improve our lives through ideas.

■ CATHERINE TRAN
PHOTO BY MARISA MONTEMAYOR



LAST MONTH LAC
ASKED ONE QUESTION,
"WHAT DOES A LIBERAL ARTS
DEGREE MEAN TO YOU?"

FOR ESSAY CONTEST WINNER
CATHERINE TRAN, THE ANSWER WAS
SIMPLE - **PASSION**.

THE QUARTERS

6 LOCATIONS

INDIVIDUAL
LEASES

2-4 BLOCKS
FROM CAMPUS

CABLE AND
INTERNET INCLUDED



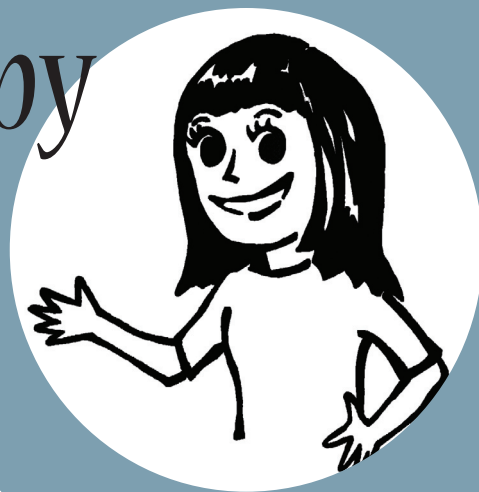
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LEGISLATION RECAP

SR. 1102

In Support of Incentivized Electronic
Course Instructor Surveys

PASSED

SR. 1103

In Support of Printing the University
Honor Code on Identification Cards

PASSED

SR. 1104

In Support of Integrating Research
and Inquiry-Based Courses into an
Undergraduate Research Certificate

PASSED

SR. 1105

In Support of Developing a
Comprehensive Degree Planner

PASSED

CAMPUS UPDATES

CTBAC UPDATES

The College Tuition and Budget Advisory Committee for the College of Liberal Arts sent two tuition and resource recommendations to Dean Randy Diehl on Tuesday, Oct.11.

Noting that 65 percent of the more than 400 Liberal Arts students who completed a college-wide survey oppose a tuition increase, even when aware an increase could maintain their top priorities, the CTBAC submitted two recommendations regarding the priorities of students and how the college

can use its funds to support them should a tuition increase be deemed necessary.

Citing students' top priorities as top faculty, smaller classes, advising and career services, the CTBAC stated that increasing course availability is the best way to address those priorities.

Additionally, the CTBAC targeted its first recommendation on improving advising as a way to decrease the time to degree for students and increase four-year graduation rates. Focusing on making summer courses

more valuable to students, the second recommendation is comprised of two components. The first component of the recommendation suggests that the College of Liberal Arts provide six complimentary hours of summer coursework for full-time Liberal Arts students.

In a recent TPAC forum the dean noted that he will accepted these recommendations in moving forward with the year's budgetary decision making.

send comments to la.ctbac@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER 24

SPRING SEMESTER REGISTRATION BEGINS

OCTOBER 31

SPRING SEMESTER REGISTRATION CON'T

NOVEMBER 1

LAST DAY AN UG MAY (W/ DEAN'S
APPROVAL) DROP A CLASS

NOVEMBER 24

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

DECEMBER 2

LAST CLASS DAY

LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL CORNER

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT **STUDENT AFFAIRS**

KATIE MASSEY



Katie Massey, LAC's Student Affairs Committee chair, describes the committee as one that "cultivates well rounded students" with an emphasis on "professional development" – and they've been doing just that.

SA also attends deans meetings with CoLA's deans, such as Dean Musick. "The meetings bring students as well as resources for educated conversations," Katie said. A week during September covered the retention of students in the CoLA, and why it's a problem. During Deans Meetings, SA

also invites other organizations and groups that are affected by the topic at hand to the meeting to encourage a well rounded discussion that addresses as many student concerns as possible.

In addition to the meetings, SA organizes events designed for students within CoLA. This semester "Getting into Law School for Dumbies" is an event where organizations like the Princeton Review as well as admissions advisors from the UT Law school will sit down and discuss with students the best ways to apply, what law schools are

looking for, what to expect, and how to increase professional development. Another tentative event will be "Grad School for Dumbies." Like the previously mentioned one, this event will offer advice on grad school, ways to expand one's education, and alert students to alternatives to law school, such as the LBJ School of Public Affairs.

Needless to say, the committee has been living up to their mission so far in serving the college's student body.

■ HARRISON DROMGOOLE

STUDENT OPINION

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



STUDENT LEADER OF THE MONTH

I'm a second year student studying psychology, business foundations and hoping to get into the social entrepreneurship and non-profits Bridging Disciplines Program. Here at UT, I'm in the Liberal Arts Honors Program and serve as the Academic Vice-Chair for the LAH student council. I work as a Teach For America representative on campus and there's a good chance you'll see me in one of your classes, if you haven't already. I plan

on applying to do Teach For America after I graduate. In the mean time, it is my hope that everyone on campus will become aware of the glaring inequalities in our nation's education system. In Texas 4000 I serve as one of the Business Development co-chairs. This year in particular, we're working to take Texas 4000 to the next level as a non-profit. In short, I love everything that I do and I want everyone else to love it as much as I do.

■ JAMIE HILL

AWARDS AND HONORS

2011-2012 NORMANDY SCHOLARS

The Normandy Scholar Program's academic focus is the Second World War. Each spring semester 20-odd students from different backgrounds and majors take the same courses, share challenges and travel together with NSP faculty to form a community of friends abroad. Beyond the study of history, guest lectures, film showings and the opportunity to visit WWII sites in Europe, perhaps the most striking feature of the program is the personal development and intellectual growth it fosters.

Alexandra Arambula
Andrew Bowman
Caroline Corcoran
Ali Dzienkowski
Daley Epstein
Joshua Fuller
Catherine Harris
Alanna Iverson
Anne Kuhnien
Peter Liddell

Jenna Milani
Patrick Naeve
Derek Polston
Rebekah Rodriguez
Madeline Schlesinger
Mark Stenberg
Abigail Storm
Sarah Sweet
Jacob Troublefield
Andrew Wilson

LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL CORNER

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT ALUMNI RELATIONS

LAC's Alumni Relations committee strives to present COLA's student body with one of their most valuable resources. As the committee's chair, Richie Gill, puts it, AR's job is "connecting students back to alumni."

By connecting students with graduates of UT, AR provides them with the experiences of past students and how they got to where they are now. In doing so, current students see real life examples of successful graduates as well as advice on how to plan for life after college.

To accomplish this, the committee organized a Speaker Series, where students can interact with famous alumni in both formal and informal environments. On October 24th in SSW 2.106 at 6:00 p.m., Alumni Relations will be hosting an event where distinguished alumni James Mulva, current CEO of ConocoPhillips, will be interviewed.

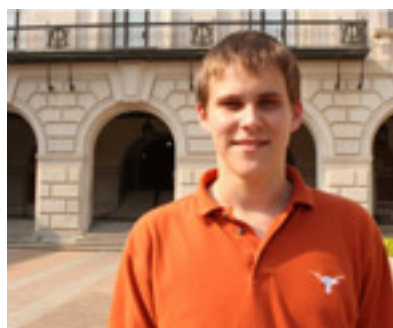
James Mulva graduated from UT's McCombs School of Business in 1968 and

received his masters in finance in 1969. After graduating, he served as a Navy officer until 1973 when his career with Phillips Petroleum began. From there, he became chief financial officer in 1990, senior vice president in 1993, chief operating officer and president in 1994, and chairman and CEO in 2002. He then helped form a merger between Conoco Inc. and Phillips Petroleum Company to form ConocoPhillips.

Alumni Relations plans to host a Speaker Panel where a group of alumni will explain their history and address student questions. Richie Gill plans for "students to be able to interview directly with alumni." By facilitating conversations between alumni and students, AR will provide critical resources to the student body of COLA.

■ HARRISON DROMGOOLE

RICHIE GILL



COMMITTEE CHAIR PHOTOS BY ARMANDO VERA

THE OUTLET

CAMPUS LIFE, POP CULTURE, MINUTIAE.
MUNDANE OR INSPIRING, THE LIBERATOR SHARES ITS
THOUGHTS ON... WELL... EVERYTHING.

Just think... Only one more year of school!
And then the world ends.

RACHEL MARINO

If pro is the opposite of con, that must mean that progress
is the opposite of congress.

HARRISON DROMGOOLE

Apparently Russians still think mullets are cool. They
clearly need Putin's guidance if that's the case.

USMAN MASOOD

Everyone has over 1000 friends on Facebook, but would
probably only count on 10 to call if they had a flat tire.

MARISA MONTEMAYOR

Thank-you Mark Zuckerberg, because now that all of my
classes have Facebook groups, we can all take turns show-
ing up to class & posting our notes.

CASSIE MANEEN

Everything is much funnier at 2am.

MICHELLE JACKSON

Found my future daughters: the two little girls singing
"Superbass" in the recent viral youtube video... adorable
British accents and rapping a Nicki Minaj song! Nothing
more to ask for.

CHARLOTTE HOCKENS

Thank you, Spring 2012 Course Schedule, for reminding me
I'll never be able to get into a foreign language.

MALLORY FOUTCH

My friend joked about someone being tackled by a student
in an early morning class after OU Weekend. We should get
that student to play defense for our football team.

DANA HENNING

If you're going to wear leggings as pants, please buy them
the right size and wear a long shirt...I've seen more of you
than I wanted to.

AILEEN O'LEARY

Nothing beats nostalgic Halloween movies. Hocus Pocus,
The Craft, dare I say it - Halloween Town -there's really no
other way to celebrate the season.

CHEYENNE SMITH

The Closet de Natalie



NATALIE GARZA PHOTO BY CHEYENNE SMITH
BLOG PHOTOS BY NATALIE GARZA
HOUNDSTOOTH FROM FLICKR.COM
PUSH PINS FROM FUZZIMO.COM
CORK BOARD/PAPER FROM DEVIANT ART.COM

Speed Round

FAST QUESTIONS. FASTER ANSWERS.

One trend that needs to die...

Leggings as pants!

If you could style any literary character, who would it be?

Hermione, she needs some help

Favorite season for fashion?

Fall

Lady gaga - fashion icon or overhyped?

Overhyped

Who is the best dressed politician?

Michelle Obama

Describe your style in three words.

Feminine. Fun. Thrifty.

Long orange skirt, denim top and a measuring tape wrapped around her neck, Senior Spanish/Journalism major Natalie Garza gives me the scoop on Cream Vintage. The bandanas are pretty popular apparently, and come football season, cowboy boots fly from the shelves. We talk about shirts and sizing, but she forgets to mention the main attraction of this small shop on the corner of Guadalupe and Dean Keaton - herself. Blogging queen and style guru, Garza is trilingual - she speaks English, Spanish, and the universal language - fashion.

Though she recently found praise on Lucky Magazine's blog, Natalie's style journey offers insight to a humble beginning light years away from internet fame. Raised just north of the border in Harlingen TX, Natalie didn't find her footing in the fashion world until she ventured to Austin for school.

"I always liked clothes, but I wore jeans, t-shirts and sweatshirts," Garza said. "I didn't wear anything that cool until I came to college. I knew Austin was a super hip city, but I didn't realize how hip it was until I got here."

Inspired by the fashion-forward capitol, Natalie dove head first into a frenzy that simultaneously filled her closet and emptied her wallet.

"(Shopping) got me into trouble my freshman year, I just spent way too much money," Garza said. "I gradually realized I could start thrifting and find just as good stuff for literally a quarter of the price."

Thrifting, or buying secondhand clothing, quickly became a staple of Natalie's wardrobe and laid the foundation for what would soon evolve into her blog. With a soft spot for fads of each decade, Natalie used trends of the past to create her own modern style.

"The industry of fashion repeats itself all the time - styles generally come back - everything repeats and recycles," Garza said. "It's not a huge concern of mine to be innovative, to be new and fresh. It's more important to me to be true to my style and what I think represents me and my blog."

As the blog began to take off, Natalie questioned her passion. Thoughts of vanity and self-obsession made her wonder if peers would mistake a love for style with a love of all things Natalie.

"I thought, 'Is this a really vain thing?' Maybe it is a little shallow that I obsess this much about what I wear, but it makes me feel good about myself and when I look better I feel better."

Beyond the blog, Natalie's attitude towards fashion infiltrates every other aspect of her life. Between clocking in hours at Cream Vintage and her school work, Natalie's style philosophy affects her from the moment she wakes in the morning all the way until she goes to sleep.

"If I'm not super satisfied with what I look like when I walk out the door, I'll be fidgeting the whole day," Garza said. "It's not just a self-conscious thing. On days when I know I have a test, I pick out an outfit I know is going to make me feel really good and confident."

It's that exact confidence that gives Natalie hope for her future. With dreams of taking her internet prowess to an executive level, Natalie hopes to find a job as a social media coordinator for a fashion store or magazine. With a background in Spanish, those goals can be reached in the global job market.

"I would love to go abroad and write for a Spanish magazine," Garza said. When I was in Barcelona People were wearing designer clothes. (It would be great) moving somewhere else and writing in a different language about fashion."

Whatever field Garza enters, she'll take the closetdenatalie mentality with her, finding joy in all of life's opportunities.

"I enjoy writing this blog - I don't want a boring job that I dread going to every day," Garza said. "I've realized how important it is to me that I spend the rest of my life doing something that I actually care about."

■ CHEYENNE SMITH



THECLOSETDENATALIE.BLOGSPOT.COM
RECYCLEDANDREWORN.TUMBLR.COM
CREAMVINTAGE.WORDPRESS.COM

Fall Fashion

The leaves are changing and so should your wardrobes color scheme. So long white skirts and linen pants, hello lush velvet bottoms and snakeskin print. From blouses to bottoms, shoes to accessories, the fashion industry will have you wishing your wallet was deep enough to indulge in all the goodness this season has to offer. Take a look at some of Autumn's must-haves from top to bottom and fall in love with the newest trends this season.

If you're looking for a simple top, but elegant enough to dress up for a dinner date, look to throw on a tie neck blouse. This blouse has all the glam to impress your girlfriends on a lunch date, but all the spunk to impress your newest crush on a dinner date. Dress it up with a pair of dark denim jeans from your closet, add pair of heals to seal the deal and you're set.

Velvet is once again making its appearance this season. Velvet makes its arrival every season in the form of blazers, but look particularly for its appearance in various bottoms. One of them being patterned skirts. Pair it with a plain tee, tights, and boots. This outfit will leave you without any regret for a day out on the town.

If you're looking for something retro, but bold at the same time find the perfect pair of colored skinny jeans. More specifically, red skinny jeans. Red skinnies are making their fashion statement in more ways than one this year. Dress them up or down with a pair of flats or chunky heals.

Another idea to give your red

jeans a little spunk this season is the new trend of color blocking. Match bold colors with other bold colors to achieve the look of "color blocking." If you're finding yourself sick of dark browns and grays for fall, give this look a try to spice up your color scheme.

Ready to put a little kick in your shoes to top off your outfit? Try out the newest look this season: loafer heels. Sounds a bit odd, but it's the cutest new look to add to the schoolgirl-originated trend.

Before stepping out of the house don't forget to accessorize! Accessorizing can make any outfit look bold and sophisticated.

Wearing snakeskin will double your sophistication this season. From bracelets to watches, wrap something around your wrist to bring your outfit together.

Still looking for something to complete your outfit this season? Polish your nails of course, but do something different! An updated French manicure is all the rage this fall. Instead of the normal white tipped nail go for color or sparkle. Replace that dull white-tipped line with a strip of color, sparkle, or metallic polish.

Most importantly, as the leaves change this fall so should your color scheme. Keep in mind that following trends are subject to change to fit your particular style. If you are sick of the dreary browns, grays, or blacks, spice up your life with color. Color is all the rage this season and it's up to you to see which colors suit your own personal style best.

■ MARISA MONTEMAYOR



top fashion blogs

rookiemaq.com

self-constructed-freak.blogspot.com

gofugyourself.com

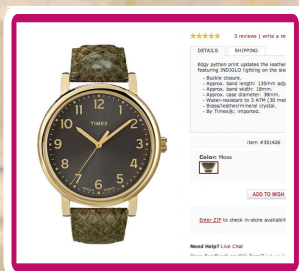
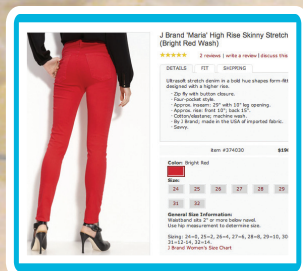
vmagazine.com

www.m-c-q.com

www.backyardbill.com

nicolaformichetti.tumblr.com

tumblr.com





Above: Weddington 1973, from Time.com /
Below: Weddington in 2011, by Andrew Torrey from the dailytexasonline.com



In 1967, at the age of 26, Professor Sarah Weddington achieved nationwide fame by arguing in front of the US Supreme Court in favor of Jane Roe. When the court ruled that the right to privacy granted under the due process clause of the 14th amendment extended to a woman's decision to have an abortion, she became one of the youngest people to ever win a Supreme Court Case. Her role in the 1973, Roe v. Wade, may be her most famous case, but Professor Weddington's work from her time spent as an undergraduate gave women in Texas an unprecedented amount of opportunity.

In 1964, Sarah Weddington graduated with a bachelor's degree in English and Speech from McMurry University. Initially, she intended to become a teacher, but later realized she wanted to pursue law. She applied to the University of Texas Law School and became the first woman from McMurry University to attend law school. In January of that same year, she took a job as a typist in the Texas legislature.

"I was out watching the legislature," Weddington said. "And the more I watched, the more I thought 'I could do that', and hopefully better."

Although she was one of five women in her graduating class (along with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson), Professor Weddington encountered trouble finding a job so she soon took up work with Professor John Sutton. There she worked with a group of politically active women to become the first woman elected from Austin to serve in the Texas legislature.

During her tenure, she helped pass several acts including giving women at UT more education about birth control and abortion, forcing credit card companies to allow women to apply for credit cards without a man's permission, passing the Texas Equal Legal Rights Amendment, and reforming court cases involving rape.

"TEXAS HAS BEEN LUCKY, BECAUSE IT HAS A NUMBER OF STRONG WOMEN. LIZ CARPENTER, MOLLY EVANS, BARBARA JORDAN, LADYBIRD JOHNSON, KAY BAILY HUTCHINSON. BEAUSE WE WERE ISOLATED FROM THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, JUST BY GEOGRAPHIC DISTANCE, WE WERE FORCED TO COOPERATE."

"Texas has been lucky, because it has a number of strong women," Weddington said. "Liz Carpenter, Molly Evans, Barbara Jordan, Ladybird Johnson, Kay Baily Hutchinson. Because we were isolated from the rest of the country, just by geographic distance, we were forced to cooperate" despite their political differences.

After working at UT, Weddington worked in D.C. for the US Department of Agriculture, and then as an assistant to Jimmy Carter. While there she worked with figures such as Hosni Mubarak, the Sultan of Oman, and served as the U.S. representative in the International Conference on Women.

Professor Weddington later returned to the UT campus and today teaches undergraduate classes on law and leadership in America. With so many unresolved issues of inequality in the world, Professor Weddington believes that it's the role of a professor to personally help students hone their skills to tackle these issues. She feels confident that the next generations of leaders possess the creativity and intellect to increase equality of opportunity not only in the United States, but all over the world.

■ USMAN MASOOD

TAKE A LOOK INSIDE

Have you been to the Blanton Museum? Located between Jester and MLK, the Blanton Museum is free to all UT students with an ID. Home to brilliant paintings, statues, and sculptures, the Blanton is sure to intrigue and entertain anyone who walks in the door, math and art majors alike.

The entrance to the Blanton itself is a sight to see. Stacked Waters, a work of art by Teresita Fernández, surrounds the entrance to the museum. As you climb the stairs, 3,100 square feet of vertically stacked, custom-cast acrylic gets lighter across the atrium's walls, as if coming up from swimming at the bottom of the ocean.

If you choose to start at the bottom floor exhibit, you will be greeted with 60+ works by Nigeria-based artist El Anatsui. For the first time in North America, viewers can see how the artists' ideas and techniques developed over three decades. Peak Project is a 3D piece made entirely of Peak Milk can lids linked together by wire. When one first enters, it looks like mounds of gold just sitting in front of you. Opening Market is another 3D piece. This one is made up of thousands of tin boxes lying opened on the floor. To the artist it represents continuing traditions of local African markets. Throughout the exhibit there are also pieces that look like blankets. Alas, these 'blankets' are actually made out of pieces of aluminum or crushed liquor bottle tops strung together. These and

many more can be viewed from September 25th – January 22nd.

Once at the top of the stairs and out of the water, you can begin either viewing Ancient Greek pottery, or going around to the museum's 2nd featured exhibit. Storied Past is on display September 18th – December 31st and showcases four centuries of French drawings. Mainly people and landscapes, Storied Past is special because it explores the beginnings of a painting – preliminary sketches, compositional studies and figure studies. The works are all in chalk, ink or pen. Some finished works are showcased as well in order to show the medium's breadth.

European art follows About Face. This section features semi-nude images, angels and religious scenes and some architecture in the mix. David with the Head of Goliath by Claude Vignon



PHOTOS OF JACK WHITE, SENIOR, AT THE BLANTON BY MARISA MONTEMAYOR



A WALK THROUGH THE BLANTON

FROM MODERN TO STILL LIFE, TEXTURED AND 2-D, THE BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART IS ALWAYS A SIGHT TO SEE

depicts the conclusion of a well-known story in a single image and is a favorite of many. The paintings vary from dull and small to bright and large. Weather you're looking for a good history lesson or jaw dropping paintings, you'll find it here.

After European art you can venture though Ancient Greek Pottery to The American Frontier. While a small section, it has a number of intricate paintings and a couple of strong, life like horse and cowboy statues.

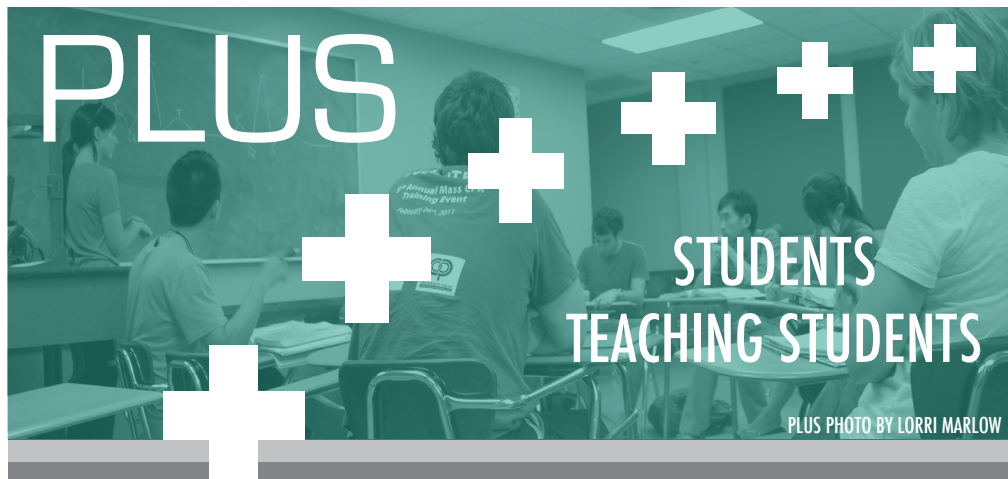
Located after The Frontier, you can view full bodies, headless bodies, limbless bodies, and of course, nude bodies. Although now seen as white statues, the Roman Statue bodies were originally colorful and bright.

Nearing the end of the tour is the Modern/ Contemporary Art of the Americas, a favorite section of many younger visitors. With room sized

pieces of art work like Missao/Missoes [How to Build Cathedrals] by Cildo Meireles - a walk-in sculpture lined with transparent curtains, a ceiling of dangling bones, and a floor full of pennies - you're sure to find pieces that boggle your mind or maybe go over your head.

Last you can choose to visit a room filled with art resources and information. Each shelf contains books on different subjects and a computer for further research. Whether you're visiting The Blanton for fun or for a class, this room will help you find out what you need to know. So what are you waiting for? The only way you can find a new favorite painting (or new least favorite painting) is to see it for yourself.

■ RACHEL MARINO



PLUS, or “Peer-Led Undergraduate Studying” is sponsored by University of Texas’s Sanger Learning Center. The program’s mission facilitates increased student performance and develops student motivation in courses that are notoriously difficult.

“I hope that more students become aware of their peers as resources, peer review and peer study are two of the most valuable resources available at UT.”

Ruth-Ann Eagle, Government Senior

“What we want is for students to take charge of their own learning,” PLUS Program Director Kate Walker said, “This is a hard transition to make. PLUS is a way to support students as they make that transition.”

PLUS achieves this goal through weekly, class-specific study groups hosted by two students currently enrolled in the course. These two students, known as preceptors, are selected through an application process at the beginning of each semester, where they are trained for their role as a discussion facilitator. During

the semester, two preceptors facilitate a weekly study group for their course, wherein they create an agenda for the meeting (based off of his or her meeting with the professor) as well as facilitate group discussion. “Our professor said that a lot of learning should be from discussing current events,” said Lucas Spencer, a third year student and preceptor for GOV 310L.

“A PLUS study group is a good place to form opinions and get a good understanding of the subject.”

A senior preceptor, a student with experience for the class in a previously, assists the other preceptors throughout the semester. Preceptors and senior preceptors meet weekly with the professor of the course to ask questions, give feedback about what students are struggling with, and plan the agenda for the next study group.

This semester, PLUS offers peer-led study groups in eighteen courses. The study group is open to all students enrolled in the course. The program proves to be remarkably successful; data collected from PLUS courses decisively demonstrates that students who attend four or more PLUS study groups during the course of the semester earn one letter grade higher than students who do not attend the study groups.

Walker believes that PLUS works so well because it is based on a successful teaching model of peer-led group studying. “Peer-led studying is collaborative and engaging,” said Walker. “Knowledge and skills are distributed among the group of students. The preceptor draws out

knowledge and skills so that collaborative learning can occur. Being engaged in this process does not mean that you need to know all of the answers.”

Peer-led study groups encourage active learning through collective problem-solving and sharing knowledge. These groups also tend to increase personal accountability. These groups serve as motivation for students to be better prepared and well versed with the materials so that they can participate in the study group.

Preceptors and senior preceptors are enthusiastic about the program and emphasize that they have had the opportunity to grow both as a student and as a leader. This includes Ruth-Ann Eagle, a senior majoring in Government, a preceptor last spring who is now a senior preceptor this semester.

“PLUS not only helps improve study skills for those in the course, but also provides a great leadership opportunity for preceptors,” Eagle said. “I hope that more students become aware of their peers as resources, peer review and peer study are two of the most valuable resources available at UT.”

What is PLUS aiming to achieve in the future? “The program has historically been based around courses in the natural sciences, but there is a tremendous amount of opportunity to expand PLUS into the liberal arts,” Eagle said. Do you have a suggestion for a Liberal Arts course that you think would benefit from PLUS? Email the editor at utlacpromotions@gmail.com

■ CHARLOTTE HOCKENS

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